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[campbeaj@wpgate.law3.georgetown.edu](mailto:campbeaj@wpgate.law3.georgetown.edu), [sleman@lsl-law.com](mailto:sleman@lsl-law.com), [conematt@hotmail.com](mailto:conematt@hotmail.com) [Save Address](#)

 Subject: **WQED in Pittsburgh**

Date: Fri, 16 Feb 2001 17:30:31 -0500

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Dear Mr. Powell,

I just want to share my concern about what is happening here in Pittsburgh with public television, about which many of us care deeply. I am upset with the way that WQED has handled one of our public TV stations, WQEX, which it is proposing to commercialize. This would be a serious loss for those in our community, who used to get valuable programming from WQEX.

I have read from several sources about how WQED has mismanaged its money and is now trying to repair the damage by selling WQEX, which they should be safeguarding as a public asset. Should this be allowed? I think that far too much of what was once public in this country is being handed to the private sphere for the profit of a few, rather than the open dialogue of all.

I hope that you will reject WQED's plan. We have plenty of commercial channels in Pittsburgh. What we need is more quality public programming.

Thank you,

 James Seitz  
Pittsburgh, PA

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**Jerold M. Starr**

---

**From:** Mel Siegel [mws@cmu.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 14, 2001 12:45 PM  
**To:** mpowell@fcc.gov; kabernat@fcc.gov; mcopps@fcc.gov; kjmweb@fcc.gov  
**Cc:** msalas@fcc.gov; slerman@lsl-law.com; campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu; jmstarr@cipbonline.org  
**Subject:** Save WQEX, revitalize WQED in Pittsburgh

Chairman Michael K. Powell: mpowell@fcc.gov  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy: kabernat@fcc.gov  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps: mcopps@fcc.gov  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin: kjmweb@fcc.gov  
Secretary Magalie Roman Salas: msalas@fcc.gov  
Steve A. Lerman, Esq.: slerman@lsl-law.com  
Angela Campbell, Esq.: campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu  
Jerold M. Starr, CIPB: jmstarr@cipbonline.org

Re: Save WQEX, revitalize WQED in Pittsburgh

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners Abernathy, Copps, and Martin:

There are now several hundred junk channels reaching Pittsburgh over the air, by cable, and by satellite dish. We don't need one more. What we need is local programming that covers events of more social and community import than the daily catalog of stabbings and suspicious fires that are the mainstay of the local network affiliates, and of more depth than CNN or BBC-America will ever provide. Despite Pittsburgh's mistaken but unfortunately lingering image as a grimy working class dump, this is an attractive, desirable, uniquely livable city whose major employers include a world-class university, a world-class medical center, a dozen innovative major corporations, and hundreds of high tech startups working on the cutting edge of information technologies. This market can support two or three or four world-class public TV stations. Sacrificing WQEX will exacerbate, not solve, the legacy of WQED's past mismanagement. Don't make a foolish irreversible mistake.

Sincerely yours,

Mel Siegel mws@cmu.edu  
5232 Westminister Place  
Pittsburgh PA 15232  
412 621 6104

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**Jerold M. Starr**

**From:** Clean Water Action - Pittsburgh [pittcwa@cleanwater.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 04, 2001 11:14 AM  
**To:** silber828@cs.com  
**Subject:** wqex

Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary  
FCC  
445 12<sup>th</sup> st. nw  
Wash. DC 20554

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December 4, 2001

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Dear Guardians of our Airwaves:

I will not waste my time or yours: I am opposed to the well-connected thieves at WQED stealing our public resource, WQEX, and selling it to friends with no interest in serving the public, and then wasting the profit-our money on extravagant salaries, parties, and other items that in no way further the mission of public television. Beware, long-slumbering democracy is rising, our hearts are filling with courage to take back our country from the present day monarchists and corporatists. WE ARE WATCHING !!!!!!!!!!!!!

In the Public Interest,

Robert J. Silber

cc:mpowell@fcc.gov kabernat@fcc.gov mcopps@fcc.gov kjmweb@fcc.gov msalas@fcc.gov  
slerman@lsl-law.com campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu jmstarr@cipbonline.org

**RECEIVED****DEC 18 2001****Jerold M. Starr****From:** Claire C [clairec@generalpipecleaners.com]**Sent:** Thursday, December 13, 2001 2:35 PM**FCC MAIL ROOM****To:** mpowell@fcc.gov; kabernat@fcc.gov; mcopps@fcc.gov; kjmweb@fcc.gov; msalas@fcc.gov; slerman@lsl-law.com; campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu; jmstarr@cipbonline.org**Cc:** sjs@generalpipecleaners.com**Subject:** WQEX / WQED Television in Pittsburgh PA

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners:

WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting, not private property to be sold for profit by WQED Pittsburgh. WQED programs consist largely of children's shows and the national feed.

Pittsburgh is a large and active city. We are rebuilding our downtown cultural center and support three professional sports teams. We easily can support two public broadcasting stations. Other smaller cities presently do. When it was broadcasting its own programming, WQEX cost only \$1 million a year to operate. Not only was this a fraction of WQED's budget, but WQEX actually generated a revenue surplus.

WQED's debts are the result of wasteful mismanagement. A WQED investigation into alleged embezzlement was kept secret even from its own board of directors. WQED has admitted to the FCC it is not in danger of going dark. It also has assets, like Pittsburgh Magazine, worth millions more. If you allow WQED to get away with this, how many other public stations will be put on the block to solve cash flow problems that lay elsewhere?

Given WQED's long history of secrecy, it would not be accountable to the public in its use of this undeserved windfall. WQED continues to spend freely even while it pleads poverty. In recent years, CFOs Mel Ming and Neil Mahrer have enjoyed compensation packages close to a quarter million dollars a year each. Ten WQED executives receive compensation packages up to \$160,000 per year, far in excess of counterparts in Philadelphia and St. Louis.

WQED has rejected bids from not-for-profit institutions in the community to operate WQEX as a public station because they weren't willing to give CEO George Miles the huge windfall he has demanded, far in excess of the real market value of a noncommercial station. In fact, right now Pittsburgh Educational Television (PET), a community initiative, has a business plan to restore public broadcasting on Channel \*16. Please give PET a chance to serve the people of this community.

With its emphasis on community-oriented programming, WQEX was once the third most watched second station in the country. We need it now more than ever.

Sincerely,

Steven J. Silverman

77 Lebanon Hills Drive

Pittsburgh PA 15228

412 / 341-1140

12/13/01

**Jerold M. Starr**

---

**From:** Skillings, Gloria [Gloria.Skillings@crowncastle.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 12, 2001 3:14 PM  
**To:** 'mpowell@fcc.gov'; 'kabernat@fcc.gov'; 'mcopps@fcc.gov'; 'kjmweb@fcc.gov';  
'msalas@fcc.gov'; 'slerman@lsl-law.com'; 'campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu';  
'jmstarr@cipbonline.org'  
**Subject:** DO NOT ALLOW THE SALE OF WQEX BY WQED

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**FCC MAIL ROOM**

Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

re: MM Docket No. 01-276

Dear Commission Members,

I am strongly against the sale of WQEX by WQED.

It is not theirs to sell.

WQED has mismanaged its funds, held an embezzlement secret even from its board of directors, and now seeks to clean up its mess at the expense of Western Pennsylvania viewers.

Will you allow an innocent public to pay for the unethical practices of WQED management? I certainly hope not.

Do not allow the sale of WQEX by WQED.

Gloria Skillings  
1220 Buena Vista Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Gloria Skillings  
JD Edwards Help Desk

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 To: conematt@hotmail.com, campbeaj@wpgate.law3.georgetown.edu, slerman@lsl-law.com [Save](#)  
 Subject: WQEX Transfer  
 Date: Sun, 18 Feb 2001 14:56:19 -0500

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Below is a copy of the letter I sent to the FCC.

carol

18 February 2000

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to object to WQED's proposal to sell one of our public TV stations (WQEX). As a professor of communication studies, a Pittsburgher, and a parent, I see WQEX as an invaluable public resource. In an age in which commercial television is a miserable failure in terms of both diversity and educational programming, only public television holds any hope for quality programming in the future. To sell off one of our invaluable resources is to undermine the prospect of diverse, quality programming in the future.

WQED has a track record of incredible fiscal irresponsibility. Because of their own fiscal mismanagement, they have proposed selling off this precious community resource. WQED has long been at odds with the very community it purports to serve and the decisions the station has made concerning WQEX have been made privately and with no public discussion of alternatives.

My students often complain that while cable television promised them choice in the shape of more than one-hundred stations, more often than not they find themselves channel-surfing, complaining that "there is nothing on TV." The last thing Pittsburghers need is another commercial station, delivering the same diet of bland re-runs, infomercials, or infotainment programming. I urge you to do the right thing, as you have in the past, and to reject WQED's petition to transfer the station.

Sincerely,

Carol A. Stabile  
Associate Professor

**Jerold M. Starr**

---

**From:** Denise Stokes [denise\_stokes13@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 26, 2001 3:49 PM  
**To:** webmaster@save16.org; mpowell@fcc.gov; kabernat@fcc.gov; mcopps@fcc.gov; kjmweb@fcc.gov; msalas@fcc.gov; slerman@lsl-law.com; campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu; jmstarr@cipbonline.org  
**Subject:** MM Docket No. 01-276 --- WQED application to commercialize and sell th

Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary,  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Commission members:

**FCC MAIL ROOM**

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station.

WQED's motive for selling WQEX is to create revenue in order to pay its 9 million dollar debt. WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust that was awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting. It is not the private property of WQED Pittsburgh's board of directors. Thus, they do not have the right to sell it to solve financial issues that have occurred due to their wasteful mismanagement. Rather than sell Pittsburgh magazine and other nonbroadcast holdings, they prefer to sell something that was never rightfully theirs.

Pittsburgh is a large and active city. We readily support three public radio stations. We can easily support two public TV stations. Please give Channel 16 a chance to serve the educational and community needs of this region.

Sincerely,

Denise Stokes

---

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**Jerold M. Starr**

---

**From:** TrumpRM@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 25, 2001 5:32 PM  
**To:** webmaster@save16.org; mpowell@fcc.gov; kabernat@fcc.gov; mcopps@fcc.gov;  
kjmweb@fcc.gov; msalas@fcc.gov; slerman@lsl-law.com; campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu;  
jmstarr@cipbonline.org  
**Subject:** MM Docket No. 01-276 --- WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX edu

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station.  
Additional comments:

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**Jerold M. Starr**

---

**From:** Underwood, Rich [underwoodr@eiNetwork.Net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 27, 2001 8:11 AM  
**To:** webmaster@save16.org; mpowell@fcc.gov; kabernat@fcc.gov; mcopps@fcc.gov;  
kjmweb@fcc.gov; msalas@fcc.gov; slerman@lsl-law.com; campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu;  
jmstarr@cipbonline.org  
**Subject:** Please do not approve commercialization!

Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary,  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Commission members:

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station.

WQED's motive for selling WQEX is to create revenue in order to pay its 9 million dollar debt. WQEX, Channel 16, is a public trust that was awarded to the people of Pittsburgh for educational broadcasting. It is not the private property of WQED Pittsburgh's board of directors. Thus, they do not have the right to sell it to solve financial issues that have occurred due to their wasteful mismanagement. Rather than sell Pittsburgh magazine and other nonbroadcast holdings, they prefer to sell something that was never rightfully theirs.

Pittsburgh is a large and active city. We readily support three public radio stations. We can easily support two public TV stations. Please give Channel 16 a chance to serve the educational and community needs of this region.

Sincerely,

Rich Underwood Jr.

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campbeaj@wpgate.law3.georgetown.edu, conematt@hotmail.com  
CC: Carol Stabile <"cstabile+"@pitt.edu>  
Subject: Commercialization of WQEX Pittsburgh  
Date: Mon, 19 Feb 2001 08:40:56 -0500

Mr. Powell,

As a Pittsburgher and supporter of public television, I am concerned that WQED proposes to sell one of our public TV stations (WQEX). WQEX could be an invaluable public resource, and WQED's proposal to commercialize it would do irreparable harm, as has their continued practice of "duplicasting" the fare of WQED. It is clear from their actions that the current management of the station does not want WQEX to succeed.

The plan to commercialize reflects WQED's ongoing irresponsibility as a trustee for public broadcasting in the Pittsburgh area. Fiscal mismanagement has led them into their current situation, which they now attempt to recover from by their unacceptable plan to liquidate a public asset. This decision was made by its board members, behind closed doors, despite local community complaints and requests for a more public, open discussion of alternatives.

As someone who appreciates quality public programming, to the limited extent it's available on current airwaves, I feel strongly that the last thing we need in Pittsburgh is another commercial channel. Please reject WQED's petition to transfer the station into commercial hands, and urge them to fulfill their responsibilities as caretakers of a publicly owned resource.

Sincerely,

Mark C. Unger

**Jerold M. Starr**

---

**From:** Cynthia Vanda [cvanda+@pitt.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 10, 2001 9:43 AM  
**To:** FCC-comments@save16.org; mpowell@fcc.gov; kabernat@fcc.gov; mcopps@fcc.gov; kjmweb@fcc.gov; msalas@fcc.gov; slerman@lsl-law.com; campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu; jmstarr@cipbonline.org; cvanda@pitt.edu  
**Subject:** WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational license

Magalie Roman Salas, Office of the Secretary,  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

re: MM Docket No. 01-276

Dear Commission Members:

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station, and -- regardless of its classification -- the reissuance or reassignment of WQEX's license should be open to competing applications in order to insure that the citizens of southwestern Pennsylvania receive the best possible broadcasting.

As a public trust, QEX is not the private propeerty of QED. It is not their's to sell.

QED's debt is the result of mismanagement and high executive salaries, a problem, which if it truly exists, should be resolved internally, not with the sale of a "public trust" asset..

Pittsburgh/Allegheny county is an economically viable region and is not in the dire economic condition QED would have you beleive. By its own admissin, QED itself is thriving and this community can easily support two public TV stations. We miss the alternative options provided on QEX, before it went black (essentially, since it has been simulcasting for 4 years).

QED demonstrates its own narrowness and its private/corporate/elititist/arrogant/classist colors when it makes insulting remarks about legitimate documentary programs such as those which expose the damage irresponsible private corporations continue to do to the environment and how corporate globalization exacerbates the growing gap between rich and poor people world wide.

Please give QED back to the citizens to which it rightly belongs.

Cynthia Vanda  
4265 Andover Terrace  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-1202

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[Conematt@hotmail.com](mailto:Conematt@hotmail.com) [Save Address](#)
**Subject:** **NO to WQEX deres. & sale**
**Date:** Sat, 10 Feb 2001 10:01:48 EST

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Please do not allow dereservation and sale of WQEX in Pittsburgh.

As a former employee of WQED-QEX, as well as a past board member of public radio station WYEP in Pittsburgh, I am very disturbed by this attempt to sell valuable public property to a private owner. I also find the present practice of simulcasting on WQED-QEX to be a waste of public resources.

It is indeed difficult, at times, to finance the operation of a public broadcasting outlet. However there are many organizations in Pittsburgh--both private-sector firms and nonprofits (such as radio station WYEP)--that have dealt with far greater financial problems without resorting to strategies and practices that I and many others in this community find to be damaging and reprehensible.

Commissioners, I am counting on you to protect the interests of the people.

Sincerely,

Mike Vargo  
 1924 Sarah Street  
 Pittsburgh PA 15203  
 412-481-8877

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Subject: WQEX should remain a PUBLIC station

Date: Sun, 25 Feb 2001 00:02:38 EST

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February 24, 2001

The Honorable Michael Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington DC 20554

Chairman Powell,

I can hardly overstate my frustration at the recent scheme that was hatched by the WQED board. Rather than asking the residents of Pittsburgh whether they wanted to sell WQEX, the WQED board decided that it would negotiate a private deal to sell WQEX to ShootingStar. This deal wrecks of hypocrisy and I ask that you treat it with an appropriate lack of respect. For a board that manages a PUBLIC television station to conduct all of its negotiations in private is scandalous. WQEX is not a company whose stock is traded and whose profitability needs to be maximized. WQEX is not a station whose viewers want it to be sold. Indeed the past few struggles over the future of WQEX prove that all proposals to sell WQEX have been met with vigorous opposition. The WQED board knew this. They knew that the ShootingStar deal would have been unpopular. Thus, they decided to take matters into their own hands. The irony here is startling. WQEX is a station that is supposed to contribute to our DEMOCRACY by helping us "see America whole, in all its diversity." Yet, the moment when things looked bleak for the board, this collection of individuals opted for a pathway that was thoroughly undemocratic.

Please do not reward the WQED board for being secretive and undemocratic.

Respectfully,

Iwalani Vartic

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**Author**

Ferguson, Corrina P; Pigott, Teresa A.

**Title**

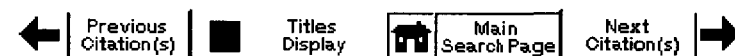
**Anorexia** and bulimia nervosa: Neurobiology and pharmacotherapy.

**Source**

Behavior Therapy. Vol 31(2), Spr , US: Assn for Advancement of Behavior Therapy. 2000, 237-263.

**Abstract**

This **review** provides an overview of some neurobiological factors that may contribute to the development and maintenance of eating disorders, and the psychopharmacological treatment of **anorexia** and bulimia nervosa. It is noted that various metabolic, physiologic, and neuroendocrine disturbances are associated with bulimia and **anorexia** nervosa, but it is often not clear whether they represent state or trait markers of the disorders. The authors argue that while most patients with bulimia nervosa who receive appropriate pharmacotherapy will experience significant short-term improvement, there is a substantial rate of relapse during long-term continuation treatment with medication. It is contended that strategies that appear to improve long-term outcome in bulimia nervosa include combination treatment with cognitive-behavioral therapy and changing to an alternative antidepressant medication. The authors suggest that the role for medication treatment in **anorexia** nervosa remains limited, but note that the SSRI antidepressant fluoxetine may have a limited role in long-term treatment of **anorexia**. (PsycINFO Database Record (c) 2000 APA, all rights reserved)



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**Sent:** Thursday, November 29, 2001 3:44 PM  
**To:** 'webmaster@save16.org'; 'mpowell@fcc.gov'; 'kabernat@fcc.gov'; 'mcopps@fcc.gov';  
'kjmweb@fcc.gov'; 'msalas@fcc.gov'; 'slerman@lsl-law.com'; 'campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu';  
'jmstarr@cipbonline.org'  
**Subject:** MM Docket No. 01-276: WQED application to commercialize and sell the WQEX educational li

Magalie Roman Salas  
Office of the Secretary,  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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**DEC 18 2001**

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Dear Commission members,

Please do not approve the commercialization and sale of WQEX's educational license. I moved to Pittsburgh months before QEX was taken off the air, and I miss it greatly. Pittsburgh is a wonderful city that has survived enormous economic changes: we need daily reminders of our city's cultural capital to reinforce municipal pride. QEX was truly local--unselfconscious, informative, and spirited. I am afraid that WQED does not fulfill these qualities; national broadcasts from Broadway shows, inane cook-offs, and health-book salesmen inspire neither pride in my city nor curiosity for what is within and beyond it. I have lived in many parts of the U.S., and I find QED's programming particularly disappointing, uneducational, and uninspiring.

Pittsburgh has plenty of commercial stations--but nothing like QEX. Please do not allow QED to sell Pittsburgh's cultural capital--the citizens own, deserve, and need it! I support keeping Channel 16 a public broadcasting station, and I fervently hope that you will do the same.

Sincerely,  
Lisel Virkler  
1403 Sherman Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15212, 412.322.8840

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**To:** "Matt&Anna Cone" <[conematt@hotmail.com](mailto:conematt@hotmail.com)> [Save Address](#)

**Subject:** **Do not turn your back on public television**

**Date:** Sun, 25 Feb 2001 23:10:50 +0900

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February 25

The Honorable Michael Powell

Federal Communications Commission

445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW

Washington DC 20554

Chairman Powell:

My name is Mariko Wakasugi. I currently work as a reporter for the International News Service division in one of the two major news wire agencies in Japan, Jiji Press. Before accepting this job, I received a Master's degree and worked as a journalist in the United States. As a journalist and as someone who cares deeply about the state of journalism in the United States, I would like to express my desire to see WQEX remain a public television station.

Throughout the world, public television has made important contributions to people's understandings of their societies. This has certainly been the case in the United States where PBS has been responsible for a host of programs whose integrity and intelligence eclipses that of its commercial counterparts. During my three years in the United States, I was consistently impressed with the high level of programs available on public television. Likewise, I was frequently shocked at the tawdry fare offered by commercial television. In traveling widely throughout the United States, I can sincerely say that I never encountered a market that was in dramatic need of additional commercial television stations.

This is why I was perplexed to hear that WQED wants to sell WQEX to a commercial broadcaster. This sale will almost certainly have the effect of decreasing the number of high quality programs that are available in Pittsburgh. Throughout the world, people recognize the value of public broadcasting. I would be saddened to see Americans turn their back on this institution by cutting the number of public television stations. Please do not allow WQED to take an action that people in Pittsburgh will regret for years to come.

Sincerely,

Mariko Wakasugi



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\*\*\*\*\*

Mariko Wakasugi  
Staff Reporter  
International News Service

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Cell mail: [mariko.wakasugi@docomo.ne.jp](mailto:mariko.wakasugi@docomo.ne.jp)

\*\*\*\*\*

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**Subject:** DERESERVATION OF CHANNEL 16 PITTSBURGH  
**Date:** 6 Feb 2001 19:09:56 EST

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2001 February 6 Tuesday

To: Michael K. Powell, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
 Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
 Susan Ness, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
 Gloria Tristani, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission  
 From: Glenn A. Walsh  
 Copy: Matt Cone, Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting, Pittsburgh  
 Steve A. Lerman, Esq., Attorney for WQED-TV  
 Rob Owen, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
 Barbara Vancheri, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

RE: PETITION TO DELETE NONCOMMERCIAL RESERVATION OF WQEX-TV 16, PITTSBURGH

I am a regular viewer of WQED-TV 13 and WQEX-TV 16 in Pittsburgh. I have watched programming on both channels for nearly my entire life, since the late 1950s.

Within the last month, WQED Pittsburgh has, again, filed a petition to delete the noncommercial reservation of WQEX-TV 16 in Pittsburgh.

WQEX-TV, originally licensed for channel 22 in 1958, began operations on channel 16 in November of 1959. At that time, Pittsburgh was the first market in the United States to broadcast two educational, non-commercial television stations. Many other markets, both large and of medium size, followed the lead of WQEX-TV, to provide additional educational services to their respective communities. The "big sister" to WQEX-TV is WQED-TV 13, the first community-sponsored public television station in the country, which began broadcasting in April of 1954.

The establishment, early in the history of television, of one, then just a few years later, two educational, non-commercial television stations in the Pittsburgh market, shows the commitment of Pittsburgh community leaders and corporations, at that time, to educational television.

In 1955, the Westinghouse Corporation donated the antenna tower and transmission site which WQED-TV and WQEX-TV now use; previously, WQED-TV had been a "one dollar a year" tenant of the facility. At the ceremony for the transfer of ownership of this facility, the President of Westinghouse stated that he had been skeptical that noncommercial television would survive; he had been pleasantly surprised by the public support in Pittsburgh shown for educational television.

The dereservation of channel 16 from noncommercial to a commercial license does not return Pittsburgh television to the same status of the late 1950s, as WQED Pittsburgh would have you believe. If channel 16 is returned to its original commercial license status, then channel 22 would have to be returned to its original noncommercial license, to keep the same status in Pittsburgh television.

Of course, this is not possible as WCWB-TV operates a successful commercial television station on channel 22 today. Hence, a dereservation of WQEX-TV would result in a net loss of educational, noncommercial service to the Pittsburgh region. This is not what the founders of WQED-TV and WQEX-TV envisioned when they pioneered public television in this community (and in the nation), nearly a half-century ago.

Regretably, over the last few years, WQED-TV has chosen to waste Federal Communications Commission-granted spectrum space and electricity (and, consequently, limited financial resources) by simulcasting WQED-TV and WQEX-TV. Hence, for the last three years, the Pittsburgh market has suffered with fewer options in public broadcasting, than residents of the tri-state area enjoyed over the previous thirty-five years. WQED-TV did not even try to augment the programming, by enacting a 24-hour broadcast day, as is done by other public broadcasters. For the last three years, residents of the Pittsburgh region have just **\*\*lost-out\*\*** on the original promise of Pittsburgh public broadcasting.

As in 1996, the petition to delete the noncommercial license of channel 16 proposes to convert a 41-year public asset into a commodity, then to sell this commodity to the highest bidder and reap a huge windfall--in this case \$20 million. This is just plain wrong!

After being denied their dereservation petition in 1996, and having the "swap deal" with Cornerstone TeleVision and Paxson Television fall-through last year, it was my hope that WQED-TV would return channel 16 to serve the community with a separate broadcast schedule, even if this broadcast schedule was limited as it was in the early 1980s. However, WQED Pittsburgh has, again, sought dereservation for WQEX-TV.

It is now clear that WQED Pittsburgh no longer intends to use the channel 16 allocation for educational, noncommercial purposes. And, until WQED Pittsburgh no longer holds the license for channel 16, no other major Pittsburgh institution will seek to serve the community with public broadcasting on channel 16. For another institution, such as a college or university, to seek channel 16 while WQED Pittsburgh holds the license would be to risk ostracism by the philanthropic community, which these other institutions also rely on for funding. As long as WQED Pittsburgh holds the license for channel 16, and WQED's management thinks they can successfully sell this asset, no other major institution will step forward and propose to assume the responsibility for a noncommercial channel 16.

As the petition was denied in 1996, I must ask that the Federal Communications Commission deny this new petition of WQED Pittsburgh to delete the noncommercial reservation of WQEX-TV channel 16. Regretably, I must also ask that the Federal Communications Commission revoke the license for channel 16, from WQED Pittsburgh, as this now appears to be the only potential for returning channel 16 to serving the Pittsburgh community as a second public television voice.

gaw

Glenn A. Walsh  
Electronic Mail - < [gawalsh@andrewcarnegie.cc](mailto:gawalsh@andrewcarnegie.cc) >  
Internet, World Wide Web Sites -  
History of Andrew Carnegie and Carnegie Libraries:

< <http://www.andrewcarnegie.cc> >  
History of Astronomer and Optician John A. Brashear:  
< <http://johnbrashear.tripod.com> >  
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Mr. Powell,

As a Pittsburgher and supporter of public television, I am concerned that WQED proposes to sell one of our public TV stations (WQEX). WQEX is an invaluable public resource, and WQED's proposal to commercialize it would do irreparable harm.

The plan reflects WQED's ongoing irresponsibility as a trustee for public broadcasting in the Pittsburgh area. Fiscal mismanagement has led them into their current situation, which they now attempt to recover from by their unacceptable plan to liquidate a public asset. This decision was made by its board members, behind closed doors, despite local community complaints and requests for a more public, open discussion of alternatives.

As someone who appreciates quality public programming, to the limited extent it's available on current airwaves, I feel strongly that the last thing we need in Pittsburgh is another commercial channel. Please reject WQED's petition to transfer the station into commercial hands, and urge them to fulfill their responsibilities as caretakers of a publicly owned resource.

Sincerely,

David G. Wilkins, Professor and Chair  
Henry Clay Frick Department of the History of Art and Architecture  
104 FFA, University of Pittsburgh, 15260  
412-648-2405 FAX: 412-648-2792  
home phone: 412-361-2648 home fax: 412-362-3679  
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**Jerold M. Starr**

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**From:** Lincoln Wolfenstein [lincoln@CMUHEP2.PHYS.CMU.EDU]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 05, 2001 6:18 PM  
**To:** jmstarr@cipbonline.org; schneider@psc.edu  
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To: mpowell@fcc.gov, kabernat@fcc.gov, mcopps@fcc.gov, kjmweb@fcc.gov,  
msalas@fcc.gov, slerman@sl-law.com, campbeaj@law.georgetown.edu

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

I am deeply concerned about the future of public television in the city of Pittsburgh. For many years we have had two channels, 13 and 16, devoted to public broadcasting. Unfortunately for the last four years the management has abused its public trust by showing identical programs on the two channels thus depriving Pittsburgh of a variety of public broadcasts.

WQED is now proposing to sell channel 16 to a commercial broadcaster and thus permanently depriving our city of varied public broadcasting. I believe our city deserves better. I have visited many cities with a comparable size of viewing public that have two or three public broadcasting stations.

WQED has rejected bids from non-profit groups to operate channel 16 as a public station. They seem to be holding out for a large financial deal that will allow them to maintain large management salaries and reward them for previous mismanagement.

I hope and trust that Pittsburgh once again can have two vital public broadcasting channels.

Sincerely yours

Lincoln Wolfenstein  
University Professor, Carnegie Mellon University  
Member, US National Academy of Sciences .



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DEC 18 2001

PETITION TO SAVE PITTSBURGH PUBLIC TELEVISION

FCC MAIL ROOM

To the Federal Communications Commission:

We urge you to reject the petition of WQED Pittsburgh to commercialize and sell sister station WQEX to ShootingStar, Inc. This community asset must be preserved for noncommercial educational broadcasting.

We also strongly object to WQED's more than three years of simulcasting WQED's programs on WQEX. We urge the FCC to grant the pending petition for reconsideration and deny WQED's license renewal in view of this waste of spectrum.

We also support the efforts of Pittsburgh Educational Television (PET) to organize a viable alternative that will restore community responsive public broadcasting on Channel 16 as soon as possible.

- | Name                           | Address                    | City                  | State               |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mark Ginsburg               | 1125 Wightman St           | Pittsburgh            | PA 15217            |
| 2. John Jacary                 | 372 1/2 McKee Pl. #1       | Pittsburgh            | PA 15213            |
| 3. Molly Rush                  | 3315 Piedmont Ave.         | Pgh.                  | PA 15216            |
| 4. Redell M. Edwards           | 716 N. Shelden Ave         | Pgh                   | PA 15206            |
| 5. Barney C. Beller            | 6323 Douglas St            | Pgh                   | PA 15217            |
| 6. <del>McElroy M. Brown</del> | <del>5624 Hemlock St</del> | <del>Pittsburgh</del> | <del>PA 15211</del> |
| 7. Stephen Tormey              | 672 Frayne St.             | Pgh.                  | PA 15207            |
| 8. Anne Stegler                | 931 Buck Ave.              | Pgh.                  | PA 15233            |
| 9. Linda Wambach               | 1119 Stanton Terrace       | Pgh                   | PA 15201            |
| 10. Judith A. Rusz             | 6465 JACKSON ST.           | PGH.                  | PA 15206            |
- Please return by no later than February 5<sup>th</sup> to: Pittsburgh Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting, 1020 Welfer Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15217

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PETITION TO SAVE PITTSBURGH PUBLIC TELEVISION

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Name	Address	City	State
1. Mark Lewis	908 Valley View	Pgh	PA 15243
2. Jeanne Burt	211 Overlook Dr	Pgh, Pa.	15216
3. Martha Clarke	457 Old Farm Rd	Pgh PA	15228
4. Edmund M. Clarke	457 Old Farm Rd	P. Pittsburgh	15228
5. Catherine Bellamy	2343 Aetna Dr.	Pgh	15241
6. Don LANGSTON	211 PARLIDGE RD	Pgh	15225
7. Richard Burt	211 Overlook Dr	Pgh	15216
8. Mary Pucich	397 Woodchiff Circle	Pgh	PA 15243

Please return by no later than February 5<sup>th</sup> to: Pittsburgh Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting, 1020 Welfer Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15217

9. Sara Mercer 117 London Towne Dr. Pittsburgh PA 15226

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## PETITION TO SAVE PITTSBURGH PUBLIC TELEVISION

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To the Federal Communications Commission:

We urge you to reject the petition of WQED Pittsburgh to commercialize and sell sister station WQEX to ShootingStar, Inc. This community asset must be preserved for noncommercial educational broadcasting. Pittsburgh is still a thriving city and WQEX was a very popular alternative. We do not need yet another commercial station.

We do not accept the empty promise of more digital channels. WQED already plans to use some of them for commercial purposes. WQED's external debts were self-inflicted and are now much smaller. Moreover, WQED has admitted to the FCC that its debts do not threaten its broadcast operations.

Permitting WQED to cash in our educational station for a \$20 million windfall would set a dangerous precedent for other reserved channels as well. If WQED no longer wants to provide programming on Channel \*16, please invite applications from other noncommercial educational organizations.

Kerry Hannan	Carnegie Mellon University SMC 1893 1060 Monroeville Ave Pittsburgh, PA
Name	Address
roni rohlfs	CMU SMC 1146 1060 Monroeville Pittsburgh PA
Name	Address
Daniel Easty	5213 Fifth Ave. Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Name	Address
Stear Anderson	CMU SMC 1511 PO Box 219 1060 Monroeville Pittsburgh, PA
Name	Address
Elena Malkin	CMU SMC 658 <del>PO Box</del> 1060 Monroeville Ave., Pittsburgh, PA
Name	Address
Anthony D'Auria	#245 Monroeville Ave #108 Pitt PA 15213
Name	Address
Kelly Zac Spriggs	4716 Ellsworth Ave Apt 902 Pgh. PA 15213
Name	Address
Paul Hanna	5860 Hobart St, Pittsburgh PA 15217
Name	Address
Adrian Herbez	5552 Beacon St #14, Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Copy form for more signatures. Please return by no later than December 12<sup>th</sup> to:  
Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting, 1910 Cochran Road, Manor Oak  
Two, Suite 441, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. Phone number: 412-563-4150.

To the Federal Communications Commission:

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FCC MAIL ROOM

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FR. JACK O'MALLEY - 1103 W. HIGHLAND AVE. Pgh. PA 15206  
Name Address

Sr. Barbara A. Finch 509 OTTAWA RIVER BLVD Apt 3 Pgh. Pa 15202  
Name Address

Bernard Sivil  
Name Address

Molly Rush 3315 Piedmont Ave. Pittsburgh PA 15216  
Name Address

Art McDonald 525 Stranton Pgh 15221  
Name Address

Rev. Donald C. Fisher 3235 Parkview Ave. Pgh 15213  
Name Address

Edith Wilson 223 Elm St. Pgh. PA 15218  
Name Address

John Haen 7721 Edgerton Ave, Pgh, PA 15221  
Name Address

Joseph R. Delale 528 Woodhaven cr Pgh Pa 15209  
Name Address

Copy form for more signatures. Please return by no later than December 12th to: Citizens for Independent Public Broadcasting, 1910 Cochran Road, Manor Oak Two, Suite 441, Pittsburgh, PA 15220. Phone number: 412-563-4150.